



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 17, 2016

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kambiz Agazi
Environmental Coordinator

SUBJECT: Summary Notes for Environmental Committee Meeting of October 27, 2015

Attendance:

Fairfax County Board Members:

Board Chair Sharon Bulova
Committee Chair Penelope A. Gross, Mason District
Supervisor John Cook, Braddock District
Supervisor John Foust, Dranesville District
Supervisor Michael R. Frey, Sully District
Supervisor Pat Herrity, Springfield
Supervisor Jeff McKay, Lee District
Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon
Supervisor Linda Smyth, Providence District

Others Present:

Ed Long, CEX
Dave Molchany, CEX
Rob Stalzer, CEX
Kambiz Agazi, CEX
Goldie Harrison, BOS, Hunter District
Brett Kenney, BOS, Mount Vernon District
Marlae Schnare, BOS, Springfield District
Susan Hafeli, DCCS
Steve Aitcheson, DPWES
Randy Bartlett, DPWES
Ellie Coddie, DPWES
Karlee Copeland, DPWES
John Kellas, DPWES
Shahram Mohsenin, DPWES
James Patteson, DPWES
Juan Reyes, DPWES
Maya Dahavale, DPZ
Martha Reed, DMB
Marc Gori, OCA
Karen Fuentes, OP3

The following is a summary of the highlights of the discussion from the October 27, 2015 meeting.

AGENDA

Item I. Supervisor Gross called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

A Review of Meeting Summary (May 19, 2015) was presented and accepted into the record.

Item II. County Residents Served by Falls Church Sewer System Update

Shahram Mohsenin, Director, Wastewater Planning and Monitoring Division, DPWES provided an update to the Board on an issue regarding sewer rates for county residents that are served by the City of Falls Church sewer system.

Staff is seeking guidance from the Board on how to address County residents served by the City of Falls Church sewer system and to follow up on Board's questions from May 19, 2015 meeting.

Responses to questions from the board's committee:

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| Hyland | Are we getting permission from the citizens? What's the objection? |
| Smyth | Citizens are looking at their water bills and asking the question, why is it not going down. No one knew we still had citizens on the Falls Church system - a bit of a learning curve. There are still some missing pieces, i.e., County Attorney, Long Term Study that Falls Church is doing right now. |
| Gross | Do we have what COA are working on? |
| Mohsenin | COA is still waiting on it. |
| Foust | COA is still waiting – sounds very complex - general fund or sewer money? |
| Hyland | If COA says no – could we still use General Fund? |
| Mohsenin | We are currently taking the Harbor View subdivision – County deeded it back in the 60's to the customer. Therefore, they would pay the same rate and general fund would pick up the difference. However, over the years they could not keep up. |
| Gross | We don't have enough information to decide between Option #1 or Option #2. |
| Herrity | Whatever we do, we need to monitor on a regular basis, and I personally am leaning towards doing nothing, but that doesn't make much sense. |

- Smyth We need more information. It may have more impact. System sewer bond?
- Bulova I agree, we need more information and monitor closely.
Gross Come back to us the committee in the future.
- Mohsenin Difference in cost could vary.
- Patteson We have looked at the Falls Church Sewer and don't feel there are any problems.
- Mohsenin Assignment from the BOS for the next scheduled meeting:
Rate Study of Falls Church
COA's information

Item III. Proposed Amendments to the Sewage Disposal Policy Update
Shahram Mohsenin, Director, Wastewater Planning and Monitoring Division, DPWES presented an update on a proposal to amend the current Sewage Disposal Policy to make it more equitable and feasible for the construction and maintenance of private sewer systems.

Staff is seeking guidance from the Board on how to amend sewage disposal policy to provide perpetual reimbursement for sewer extensions by property owners and to follow up on Board's questions from May 19, 2015 meeting.

Responses to questions from the board's committee:

- Mohsenin We have a five year connection policy:
Provide reimbursement?
We don't have a "sunset" policy presently.
BOS was okay with proposed amendment doing away with "sunset" policy.
- Gross There were no questions and answers. In that case you have your direction.

Item IV. Public Maintenance of Private Storm Water Management Facilities Update
Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director, DPWES

Randy Bartlett updated the Board regarding the maintenance of private storm water management facilities. In his presentation, Mr. Bartlett provided a recap of what was discussed at the Board's May 20 and September 30, 2014 meetings. For more information please see presentation handout *Private Residential Storm Water Facilities – Next Steps*

Responses to questions from the board:

- Bulova How many contractors attended?
- Codding About 50

- McKay Where would you to start?
- Codding We propose starting with the residential wet and dry pond, because these are facilities have that provide the most benefit for the cost.
- McKay Should we include rain gardens, and bio-retention facilities while these are still relatively new and still in good condition? Some HOAs don't even know if they have a rain garden and many do not know how to properly maintain them.
- Bartlett We have recommended starting with wet and dry ponds since these are the more traditional facilities and then evaluating the program in two to three years to determine if we should expand and include the green infrastructure facilities. Staff is recommending starting with a more narrow scope.
- Codding The program only applies to Stormwater management facilities and does not include aesthetic ponds.
- Herrity What are the cost benefits? Are we putting in expensive solutions?
- Bartlett Staff recommended initially the limiting this effort to the ponds because these there is a much better cost to benefit ratio as they are the most cost effective to maintain based on these facilities and the county is better equipped to maintain these larger facilities that serve multiple properties. Also this program was a recommendation that came from the focus groups that worked on the ordinance. Part of the issue it is intended to address is the potential inequity where the county currently maintains the majority of residential dry ponds.
- Bulova Recommend we move forward. But the BOS will want to know what projects we move forward with and how they are chosen.
- Codding The recommendation is to offer this program as part of the inspection of the facility, which is done on a 5 year cycle. This will help spread out any potential impacts.
- Foust Are all new ponds going into the county maintained program?
- Patteson All dry ponds, not the wet ponds, we are waiting on resolution of these discussions.
- Gross Sense is the BOS wants to move forward. Develop program parameters and come back to the BOS.

Item V. EPA Clean Power Plan (CPP) Overview

Susan Hafeli, Chief, Utilities Branch, DCCS

The last time this came before the BOS was in 2014. Since then, a lot of changes have been made and are very favorable towards Virginia. Susan Hafeli covered the following key points:

1. The CPP will help ensure continuing reductions in carbon emissions from the power sector
2. Most states have stronger emissions-reduction targets than Virginia
3. Governor McAuliffe is confident Virginia will meet and may even exceed its targets
4. There's currently substantial disagreement and uncertainty surrounding the CPP implementation and costs

Responses to questions from the board's committee:

Gross	No action needed to be taken on this one.
Herrity	We do have one power plant – what might be helpful? Cost? Impact?
Hafeli	It [Covanta] would not be considered a fossil fuel plant – and not fall under the emissions-reduction requirements of the Clean Power Plan. As a renewable resource, it would not be impacted.

Item VI. Solid Waste Issues Update

John Kellas, Deputy Director, DPWES is the new deputy director for DPWES. John provided an overview of current initiatives related to the county's Solid Waste Management Program and Plan.

In summary, Mr. Kellas addressed questions and provided information on the follow:

1. Chapter 109 Initiative
2. Solid Waste Plan submitted to DEQ
3. Development of an electronic calendar
4. Lot of retirements – doing a lot of succession planning
5. Using drivers and fleet in a more productive manner
6. Does efficiency affect our safety
7. How do we develop effective metrics so folks could see the results

Responses to questions from the board's committee:

Gross	What were the employees rewarded for?
Kellas	Team awards, OPAs and a celebration of success
Aitcheson	A Super Bowl Party

- Bulova Recently pleased with presentation of:
Cultural change and enhancement
Model for Lines of Business
Safety. Hope we can meet your staff during our LOBs Meetings.
- Kellas Plastic bags going away – cultural change is coming.
- Gross We often have to include industry, i.e., Lowe's, Home Depot, etc.
Remember how 22 years ago when changing to “clear” bags, it was not received real well
at first.
- Gross BOS needs a timeline for eliminating the use of plastic bags.
- Patteson Looking at glass recycling also – costly – possibly some way to reuse in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting TBA